



The Saguaro Wilderness Area



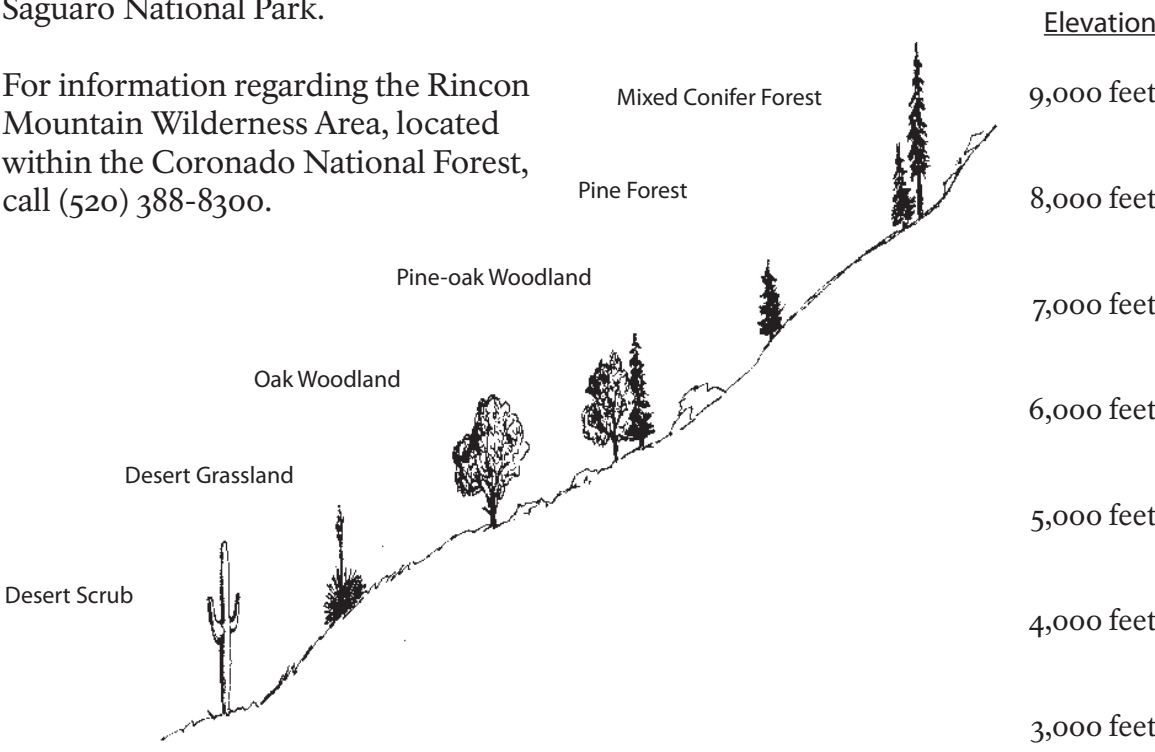
Manning Cabin

The Saguaro Wilderness Area

The Saguaro Wilderness Area was officially designated as wilderness in 1976. This large, roadless backcountry consists of 57,930 acres within the Rincon Mountain District of Saguaro National Park. It is bounded on three sides by the 38,590 acre Rincon Mountain Wilderness Area, which lies within the Coronado National Forest. Although these wilderness areas are adjacent to one another, management philosophies differ. This brochure was developed to provide users with the guidelines and regulations that govern the Saguaro Wilderness Area within Saguaro National Park.

Plant communities within the Saguaro Wilderness Area vary from hot and dry desert scrub to cool and moist pine forest. Six different biotic communities are represented here including: desert scrub, desert grassland, oak woodland, pine-oak woodland, pine forest and mixed conifer forest. This biologically diverse area supports a tremendous variety of plant and animal species. Please help us protect this wild and wonderful place; leave all natural and cultural objects as you find them.

For information regarding the Rincon Mountain Wilderness Area, located within the Coronado National Forest, call (520) 388-8300.



Camping

Camping is allowed at 6 designated campgrounds located throughout the Saguaro Wilderness Area. A permit is required for all overnight stays, with a fee of \$6.00 per campsite per night. Refunds for cancelled camping permits are not available, but camping trips may be rescheduled within the next 2 months at no additional cost.. Inter-agency Senior and Access Pass holders receive a 50% discount on camping fees. Please include your pass number on the permit application when faxing or mailing. The maximum number of people allowed per campsite is 6. The maximum size of any one group is 18.

<u>Campground</u>	<u>Elevation</u>	<u># of Sites</u>
Manning Camp	8,000 feet	6
Spud Rock	7,400 feet	3
Happy Valley	6,200 feet	3
Juniper Basin	6,000 feet	3
Grass Shack	5,300 feet	3
Douglas Spring	4,800 feet	3

Water

Without question, water will be your most important concern while visiting the Saguaro Wilderness Area. Surface water is generally scarce during most of the year. At times, it is non-existent. Start your trip with plenty of potable water, know where water sources are located and plan your trip according to water availability. For current water reports, inquire at the visitor center at (520) 733-5153. It is recommended that you treat/filter all water used for human consumption.

All water sources in the Saguaro Wilderness are intermittent streams or springs. In dry seasons, water is often unavailable. Do not rely on finding water at campsites. The water source at Manning Camp is a spring surrounded by chain link fencing. Please do not enter the fenced area. Water may be obtained a short distance down stream.

If your itinerary calls for you to exit on the same trail you entered on, you might consider caching potable water along the trail. This will ensure a source of water on your way out. We recommend sealed water containers labeled with your name and date. Please remove all water caches from the backcountry: do not leave for the next user.

Leave No Trace

The ethics and techniques of “Leave No Trace” camping were developed by the National Outdoor Leadership School to assist outdoor users in minimizing their impacts on wild places. When camping in the Saguaro Wilderness Area, please adopt these ethics and techniques to help protect and preserve this Sonoran Desert treasure.

Principles of Leave No Trace

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Camp and travel on durable surfaces.
- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Properly dispose what you can’t pack out.
- Leave what you find.
- Minimize use and impact of fires.
- Protect and conserve water resources.

For additional information, a series of booklets are available from NOLS. Saguaro National Park recommends “Desert & Canyon Country” & “Back-country Horse Use”.

For more information, contact:

National Outdoor Leadership School
284 Lincoln Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520-2448
1-800-710-6657
Website: www.nols.edu

Topographic Maps

All persons using the Saguaro Wilderness Area should have the necessary orienteering and map reading skills to safely get around.

We suggest that you carry National Geographic’s “Trails Illustrated Map”, of Saguaro National Park , which covers the entire park in one waterproof, tear-resistant map. (Check with park staff about any current trail changes or closures.)

This map is available for purchase at the isitor center or can be mail ordered by contacting the Western National Parks Association bookstore at the address/phone number below:at the visitor center.

WNPA Bookstore
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, Arizona 85730
(520) 733-5155

Trailheads

Six trailheads lead into the Saguaro Wilderness Area. To help you plan your trip, the trailheads have been separated by the level of difficulty it takes to reach a particular trailhead.

There is no public road access to the Madrona area. X-9 Ranch Road is closed to all public travel, by vehicle or foot.

Access to the Saguaro Wilderness via the Miller Creek, Turkey Creek and Italian Spring Trailheads is through United States Forest Service (USFS) lands. For information about the Coronado National Forest, call (520) 388-8300.

Arizona Trail access is typically at Italian Spring (north) and Hope Camp (south). Permits for camping inside Saguaro National Park should be arranged well in advance of starting your Arizona Trail trip (available up to two months in advance). Permits cannot be obtained by phone and the visitor center is a long detour from the Arizona Trail route.

The trailheads that offer the easiest, paved road access are as follows.

Easy Access

The *Tanque Verde Ridge* Trailhead is located off the park’s scenic loop drive, within the Javelina Picnic Area. Vehicle access to the trailhead is available from 7:00 a.m. to sunset daily. The loop drive is closed and locked nightly.

The *Douglas Spring* Trailhead is located at the east end of Speedway Boulevard and is open 24 hours per day. Due to this easy access, vehicle break-ins have occurred at this trailhead. Do not leave valuables inside your vehicle.

The *Loma Alta* Trailhead is located at the north end of Camino Loma Alta and is an option for southern access to the Arizona Trail. Parking for this trailhead is outside of Saguaro National Park on Pima County land; a backcountry permit is required for overnight parking.

<u>Trailhead</u>	<u>Elevation</u>
Douglas Spring	2,750 feet
Tanque Verde Ridge	3,100 feet
Miller Creek	4,200 feet
Turkey Creek	4,250 feet
Italian Spring	4,800 feet

Moderate Access

The *Miller Creek* and *Turkey Creek* Trailheads are generally accessible by light truck or car. However, during or after heavy rainfall, access to these trailheads can be restricted or impassable. To reach either of these trailheads, take Interstate 10 exit 297 and head north. The road is paved for the first two miles and graded gravel for the remainder of its length. When you enter the Coronado National Forest, the road becomes USFS Route #35. The turnoff to the Miller Creek Trailhead is 16 miles from the I-10 exit.

The Turkey Creek Trailhead turnoff is 1/2 mile beyond the Miller Creek turnoff. Look for USFS Route #4408 and turn left. Vehicles without high clearance and 4-wheel-drive will not be able to negotiate the last 1.6 miles of road leading to the Turkey Creek Trailhead.

Both the Miller Creek and Turkey Creek Trailheads are located on USFS lands; you must hike an additional 1.5 miles on either trail to reach the boundary of Saguaro National Park.

Difficult Access

The *Italian Spring* Trailhead is the most difficult trailhead to access. To reach this trailhead, drive east on Tanque Verde Road. At the intersection with Wentworth Road, Tanque Verde Road will change names to Redington Road. At the boundary of the Coronado National Forest, the surface of Redington Road will change from pavement to gravel. While the gravel portion of Redington Road does not require 4-wheel-drive, high clearance is recommended as it is not regularly maintained and is usually in poor condition.

From the beginning of the gravel, travel 9.6 miles to USFS Route #37 and turn right. Vehicles with 4-wheel-drive and high clearance may drive an additional 2.6 miles to the Italian Spring Trailhead. This trailhead is located on USFS lands; you must hike an additional 5.1 miles to reach the boundary of Saguaro National Park.

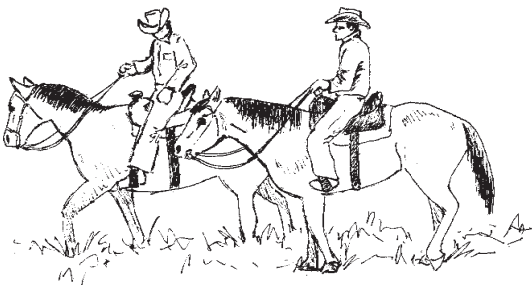


Wilderness Regulations

- Off trail travel is not permitted below 4,500 feet in elevation.
- Campfires are prohibited at Douglas Spring and Grass Shack Campgrounds. Gas stoves are encouraged at all camp sites.
- Where campfires are allowed, make sure your fire is completely extinguished before departing.
- Only dead and downed wood may be collected and burned.
- Mechanized (bicycles) or motorized vehicles are prohibited in the wilderness area.
- Pets are prohibited on all trails within Saguaro National Park.
- Outhouses are provided at most of the campgrounds. Elsewhere, bury human waste at least 150 feet from trails, meadows and water sources.
- Do not put trash in outhouses.
- Discharging firearms is prohibited in Saguaro National Park.
- Digging trenches around tents or modifying camp areas is prohibited.
- Camping is allowed in designated campgrounds only. Do not deviate from your itinerary.
- Pack out everything you pack in.
- Camping permits must be visible while hiking in/out of the wilderness area. At all other times, leave permit on your tent.
- Persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Camping permits may be issued up to 2 months in advance, but no later than 12:00 noon the day of departure.
- The total length of stay may not exceed 10 days, with no more than 5 consecutive days at any one campground.
- Maximum group size is 18 people.
- Camping permit applications received by mail or fax must be fully complete to have the camping permit mailed back to you.

Livestock Regulations

- At Saguaro National Park, livestock is defined as mules, donkeys and horses only. All other animals, including pets and other livestock, are prohibited.
- Livestock are prohibited on the Tanque Verde Ridge and Miller Creek Trails and the last 1/2 mile of the Rincon Peak Trail and a portion of the Converse Trail.
- The maximum number of livestock allowed overnight at Douglas Spring, Grass Shack, Spud Rock, and Happy Valley Campgrounds is 5 head.
- Free-trailing, loose herding or tying livestock to trees is prohibited.
- Grazing livestock is prohibited within the park. You must provide your own feed. Weed-free pellets are recommended.
- Livestock droppings must be removed and scattered away from campgrounds.



Know Before You Go

- Carry at least one gallon of water per person, per day; additional water is recommended during the summer as temperatures can be extremely high, especially in the lower elevations of the park.
- Treat all water collected for human consumption. Water is generally scarce throughout the year.
- Be careful with campfires. Check with the visitor center regarding fire restrictions prior to your trip. Campfires are always prohibited at Douglas Spring and Grass Shack Campgrounds.
- Be cautious around all wildlife. Know what to do if you encounter Africanized bees, black bears and mountain lions.
- Do not leave valuables in vehicles.
- Pace yourself according to your own physical condition.
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Respect the weather in all seasons.
- Do not cross flooded streams. Wait until the flow subsides.
- Use biodegradable soap and wash away from water sources.
- Cellular phones work in many parts of the Saguaro Wilderness Area, but not in all. High points with a view of Tucson or Benson work best.

More info: www.nps.gov

Weather

The temperatures below are monthly averages for Manning Camp, which is located at an elevation of 8,000 feet, and the visitor center, which is located at an elevation of 3,080 feet.

	Manning Camp		Visitor Center	
	High	Low	High	Low
January	44	25	63	38
February	46	24	66	40
March	48	25	72	44
April	52	27	80	50
May	65	38	89	57
June	77	48	98	67
July	76	53	98	73
August	76	53	96	72
September	73	48	93	67
October	65	42	84	57
November	53	32	72	45
December	48	29	65	39

Winter Rainy Season:

The typical winter rainy season occurs from December through February. Rainfall is generally light and gentle, but may fall for extended periods. Expect snow at higher elevations.

Summer Rainy Season:

The typical summer rainy season occurs from July through September. Rainfall can be intense and heavy. Lightning and flash flooding are common - extra caution is advised.

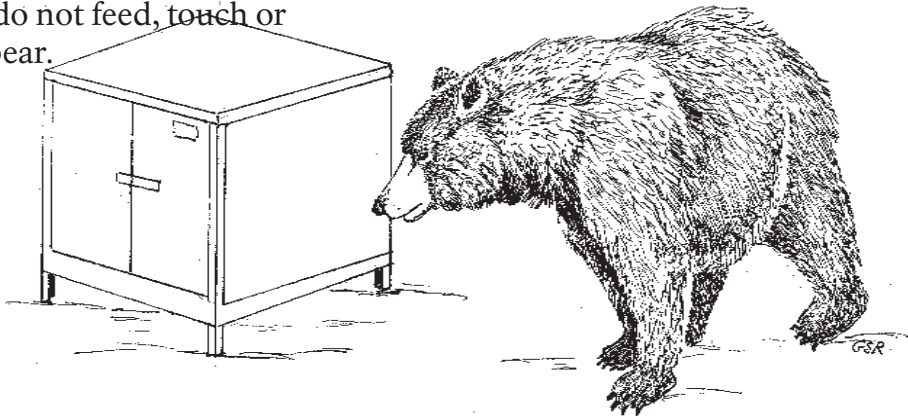
Bear-Proof Containers

The Rincon Mountains are home to a small population of black bears. To prevent these bears from associating food with humans, bear-proof storage containers are provided at all six campgrounds.

Store all scented items, including food, garbage and toiletries, inside these bear-proof containers. Improperly stored items may lead to property damage and/or possible human injury. It is recommended to store water bottles here as well. Do not leave food or trash inside the bear-proof container when departing.

Keep clothes, sleeping bags and tents as odor free as possible, do not cook or take food inside your tent. Clean up thoroughly after each meal and never burn food scraps in your campfire.

For your safety, and that of other wilderness users, do not feed, touch or approach any bear.



Black Bears

If approached by a black bear:

Make Yourself Look Large

Raise your shirt or jacket above your head to give the impression of size.

Scream Loudly

Make sure the bear knows you are a human.

Fight Back

If a bear attacks, fight back vigorously.

Report Wildlife Encounters

If you encounter a bear, mountain lion or Africanized honey bees, we ask that you report the incident to park staff as soon as possible.

Africanized Honey Bees

If attacked by bees:



Get Away Quickly

Run from attacking bees and seek shelter in an enclosed space such as a vehicle or building. If cover is not available, continue running until the bees stop chasing you. In some cases the distance may be as much as one-half mile.

Cover Your Head

Africanized honey bees target the eyes, ears, nose and mouth when attacking. Use your shirt or jacket to cover your head while running away. Keep the hole you are looking out of as small as possible, without impeding your vision.

Do Not Kill Attacking Bees

If you kill an attacking bee, it will release an alarm scent that will attract other bees from the colony.

Do Not Flail Your Arms

Flailing your arms or swatting at bees will only make the attack worse.

Seek Medical Attention

If you are attacked by Africanized honey bees, call or seek medical attention immediately.

Mountain Lions

If approached by a mountain lion:

Make Yourself Look Large

Raise your shirt or jacket above your head to give the impression of size.

Scream Loudly

Make sure the mountain lion knows you are a human.

Back Away Slowly

Do not turn your back on the animal. Back away slowly and do not run. If you turn and run, instinct may trigger the animal to chase after you and attack.

If Attacked

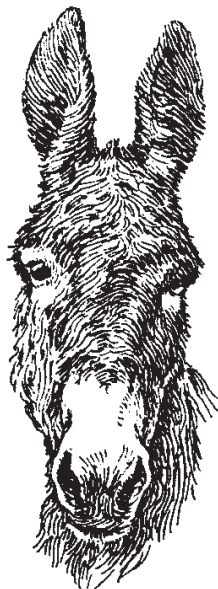
Fight back. Humans have successfully fought off lions with rocks, sticks, or bare hands. The animal's face and nose are good targets.



Livestock at Manning Camp

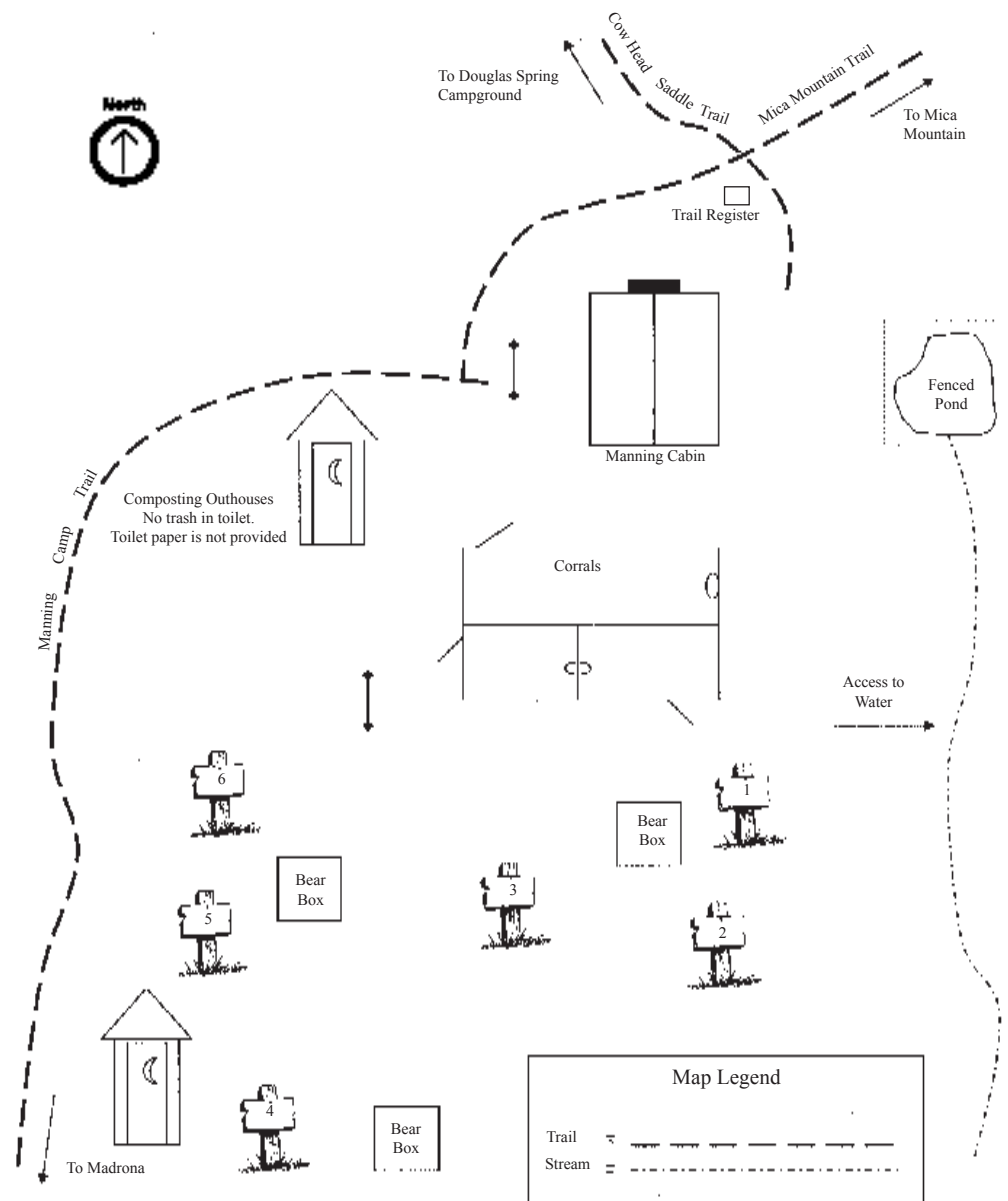
Manning Camp, located in the heart of the Saguaro Wilderness Area, is the primary staging area for a variety of wilderness management functions. During the summer, both fire and trail crews use Manning Camp as their base of operation. Throughout the year, a variety of researchers also stay at Manning Camp while studying the plants and animals of the park.

The supplies needed to support these operations are carried into the Saguaro Wilderness Area by pack mules. Due to the number of livestock at Manning Camp, additional rules apply.



- All livestock at Manning Camp must be kept in the corrals. There are two small corrals and one large corral.
- When government-owned livestock are at Manning Camp, privately-owned livestock are not permitted.
- The maximum number of livestock allowed overnight at Manning Camp is 10 head.
- Water for livestock may be available at the troughs in the corrals during the summer months.
- When water is not available in the troughs, livestock must be watered at the creek below the corrals.
- Livestock and people are not allowed within the fenced water storage pond above the dam.
- Livestock is not allowed in camp-sites at any time.
- Hitching rails are provided for loading/unloading only. Supplies must be hand-carried from the hitching rail to your campsite.
- Do not put saddles on hitching rails; do not tie livestock to corral fences.
- Picketing or hobbling of livestock is not allowed at Manning Camp.
- Grazing livestock is prohibited within the park. You must provide your own feed. Weed-free pellets are recommended.

Manning Camp Campground



Camping Permit Information

A camping permit is required for each group or individual staying overnight in the Saguaro Wilderness Area. By signing the permit, you agree to abide by the regulations as set forth on page 4 of this brochure. If using livestock at Manning Camp, additional regulations apply; please refer to page 6 for this information.

Permits may be issued up to two months in advance, but no later than noon on the day of departure. All applications by mail or fax must be complete to process. Questions? Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153.

Permits may be obtained:

- 1. *In person.* Stop by the visitor center, located at 3693 South Old Spanish Trail, Tucson AZ. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily except Christmas Day
- 2. *By mail.* Complete this camping permit application and mail to the address on the portion of the application. Payment must be included with application. Allow 3-4 weeks for mail in applications.
- 3. *By fax.* Fax completed applications to (520) 733-5195. Payment must be included -- credit card only.

Camping Permit Application
(please print neatly)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone _____
(for questions about this permit)

Emergency Phone _____
(# to call if you are in trouble)

Cell Phone _____
(phone you will carry on your trip)

Entry Trailhead _____

Entry Date _____

Exit Trailhead _____

Exit Date _____

Method of Travel:
☐ Hiking _____ total # of people
☐ Riding/Packing _____ total # of people
_____ total # of livestock

Names and emergency phone numbers
of other people in group:

Trip Itinerary

Campground	Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

☐ Being dropped off / picked up.

☐ Leaving vehicle(s) at trailhead.

Trailhead _____
Make/Model _____
Year/Color _____
License Plate/State _____

☐ Please mail the permit to me.
(all information must be provided to mail)

☐ I will pick my permit up in person by noon the day of departure.

I have read and understand the Wilderness Regulations for using the Saguaro Wilderness Area and will ensure they are followed by everyone in my group.

Signature Date

Mail To: Wilderness Permits
Saguaro National Park
3693 S. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730

Camping Permit Fees

NOTE: Camping permit fees are non-refundable.

_____ # of nights
X
_____ # of campsites
1-6 people = 1 campsite
7-12 people = 2 campsites
13-18 people = 3 campsites
X
\$6.00
OR \$3.00 (Access/Senior Passholder Pass # _____
=
\$ _____ Amount Owed

Method of Payment

_____ Personal or Cashiers Check
(Payable to: National Park Service)
_____ Credit Card

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard
☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Name on credit card (please print):

Credit Card Number:

Expiration Date: _____/_____/_____

Authorized Signature:
_____7

Saguaro East: Rincon Mountain District

